SOCCER TEAM FROM JAPAN TO PLAY HERE

By PHIL WILKINS

The Japanese Olympic ...ccer team is expected ... play two matches ...gainst Australia between ...larch 29 and April 5.

The Japanese team is to ...pend a fortnight in Mexico ...ity in March acclimatising ...or the Games, for which it ...as qualified, in October.

Originally, it was hoped ...hat the Japanese would be ...able to play four matches ...on their return from Mex-...ico.

But the Japanese Footbal... Association's expenses wer... considered excessive by t... Soccer Federati...

A.A.P.

LONDON, Wednesday.— "You little beauties," shouted Australian Soccer Federation secretary Ian McAndrew after Australia's victory in the Saigon tournament.

"This is Australia's finest achievement in international Soccer.

"Now wait for the 1970 World Cup elimin-...

Japan will play on successive days

By TERRY SMITH

...pan's national Soccer ... will play two ...hes on successive ...against Australi... ...h 30 and 31.

... opening game ...ayed at the Syd... ... Ground on ... ...day and the seco... ...ympic Park, Mc...

... remaining matc... ...n Japan and Aus... will be played at ...at Norwood Oval, ...le, on April 4.

... new programme ... ...ranged yesterday ... the Australian ...

SOCCER

Japanese soon here

AUSTRALIA will meet Japan in the first of three Soccer Tests at the Sports Ground on Saturday, March 30.

The second match is set down for Olympic Park, Melbourne the next day.

The Japan Soccer Association yesterday cabled acceptance of this tight ...tch schedule.

Crusader Billy Graham caused officials to ...tch the third Test from ...isbane on Thursday ...ght, April 4, to Adelaide.

Billy Graham has book... ...d Brisbane's only suitable ...floodlit arena for Thurs... ...day, April 4.

The 16 man Australian squad to meet Japan will assemble in Sydney on March 26.

Selectors will name the squad on March 24.

SAIGON, Wed. (UPI). —Australia won its first international Soccer tournament tonight by carrying off the Vietnam National Day cup in a thrilling 3-2 victory over South Korea.

The game opened ...ramatically before a ...rowd of 25,000 that ...cluded ... Vice-Presi...

... second half ... minutes old wh... later, it Australian defence ...

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION PRESENTS . .

AUSTRALIA V JAPAN

1968

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME PRICE 20c

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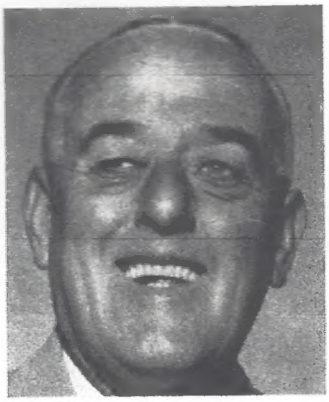
WELCOME TO JAPAN!

Says Sir William Walkley, C.B.E., President of the Australian Soccer Federation



IT is with great pleasure that I welcome the officials and players of Japan's National team, not only as sportsmen, but as ambassadors of a great country, which enjoys a relationship with Australia which is growing stronger every day.

Our international experience for a long time has been limited—but things are changing. Australia's long isolation from the rest of the world is over and our victory in last November's Saigon tournament shows that we are on the way towards a more exciting future.

Australia has been drawn in the same group as Japan in the qualifying round of the World Cup, and today's match could provide a guide to the outcome as well as helping to cement our already close friendship.

I am also convinced that the Japan party will receive the warm and hospitable reception for which Australians are famous. Let's all make their visit here a memorable one, thus ensuring that a regular exchange of matches may come about between Japan and Australia.

Japan's star winger Ryuichi Sugiyama prepares to skip around Brazil's World Cup full-back Djalma Santos . . . and gives us a preview of what to expect on the tour.

Now is the time to make
the change to
CRAVEN
FILTER

belongs to the world of today

J508/9/66

JAPAN—A NATION EMERGING IN SOCCER

THERE has been a wholly encouraging spread of interest in Soccer since Japan staged the Olympics in 1964, and the game is steadily replacing baseball in terms of spectator interest.

And the man who is largely responsible for sparking the growth and vast improvement is Dettmar Cramer, the F.I.F.A. coach from West Germany who wanders the world and has just completed a month's tour of Australia.

"I feel you will be in for a shock if you under-estimate the standard of Japan's National team," said Cramer.

Japan is said to play an attractive brand of Soccer, with the ball travelling a lot, but always under control.

The player who has the ball is simply a link in the chain and the others pivot around him and position themselves all the time.

One of Cramer's first moves was to give Japan's National team as much experience playing against top teams in Europe and South America as possible.

This has helped to develop a style of play in which the natural guile of the Japanese has been blended with the well-drilled technique of the Europeans and the skilful ball control of the South Americans.

A number of the players would appear to have learned their lesson well, because three of them have attracted the interest of leading clubs in Europe and South America.

Kunishige Kamamoto, the centre-forward, has been approached on a number of occasions, and Ryuichi Sugiyama, a winger, is still being sought by Palmeiras of Sao Paulo after playing brilliantly against the Brazilian club.

Professional football, however, does not exist in Japan, and the players have rejected the offers to leave by reason of their dedication to the National team.

Japan's record in an Olympic qualifying tournament held in Tokyo last September and October has caused Australian coach Joe Vlasits to be wary of them.

They beat Vietnam 1-0 and drew 3-all with South Korea, which compares more than favourably with Australia's 1-0 win over Vietnam and 3-2 defeat of South Korea in the Saigon tournament in November.

Japan's players do not lack in experience because nearly all of them are survivors of the Tokyo Olympic team which reached the quarter finals after beating Argentina 3-2.

The Land of the Rising Sun is sparing no expense in a bid to enable their Soccer players to become as famous as their boxers, swimmers and exponents of table tennis.

Japan's National team has just spent six days in Mexico City to get experience of playing in the high altitude which will be encountered at the Olympics later in the year.

Japan's star centre-forward Kunishige Kamamoto sends in a header during a 2-1 victory over Palmeiras of Sao Paulo last year.

WE CAPTURE THE CUP

By TERRY SMITH who toured with Australia's team

THE silver cup was gleaming in the lights of the Cong Hoa Stadium in Saigon like a white ball of fire as Australian coach Joe Vlasits held it high in the air.

This was the magical moment of Soccer glory that I had been waiting for . . . a moment when Australia had at last become a proud force by winning a prestige international event.

A number of the Australian players were crying as Vlasits was pushed forward to receive the Cup presented to the winner of Vietnam's National Day

They had fought back from the shock of conceding a goal in the 51st second of play to surge to a 3-1 lead before finally triumphing over South Korea in the final.

For a moment, everybody in the Australian touring party forgot they were only 20 miles away from where a war was being fought.

They forgot the hundreds of soldiers carrying guns who flocked around the Stadium and did not hear the explosion of mortar shells in the background.

"Uc-Dai-Loi (Australia), No. 1," shouted the 35,000 spectators as the Australian players ran a lap of honour around a field which was little more than ankle-deep slush.

The actual side that night was Corry, Keith, Ackerley, Schaefer, Van Alphen, Westwater, McColl, Abonyi, Warren, Baartz, Vojtek.

The only pity was that Australia could not see how skilfully this team was able to play.

Our players had to contend with a ball made as slippery as a piece of soap by a playing surface which was little more than a bog.

The Australian players quickly developed into a fit, adventurous, fast and well-organised team, brilliantly inspired and indoctrinated.

A coach who can instil this kind of spirit into a team, who can bring them to such a level of fitness and endow them with so concrete a defence, so persistent an attack, deserves the highest possible credit.

This credit one gives most happily to Joe Vlasits.

He used the spartan conditions under which the touring party existed to develop a team spirit which paved the way for Australia to win 10 matches in a row on the tour.

You could not escape the desperate poverty of the place wherever you went in the corrupt, decrepit city of Saigon.

Every night a security guard with a machine gun patrolled the corridors of the white-washed Golden Building hotel where the Australian players were staying in conditions which can only be described as primitive.

The players had to sleep three to a room, and Stan Ackerley was thrown across the room with an electric shock when he first tried to turn on the light.

It was only through the co-operation of the Australian army that the players managed to get a decent meal.

Allan Westwater leaps over the slush of Saigon's Cong Hoa Stadium in a chase for a partially submerged ball.

Australia's team which scored a 2-0 win over Djakarta's representative XI . . . from left to right (back row) are Van Alphen, Vojtek, Baartz, Schaefer, Keith, Ackerley, (front row) Warren, Romanowicz, Westwater, McColl, Abonyi.

Australia's feat in completing the tour with an unbeaten record was a classical team effort, and it would be unfair to pick out a star.

Australian captain John Warren's courageous play and sense of humour quickly won him the complete loyalty of the other players.

No one who saw it will ever forget the way in which Warren scored the solitary goal that enabled Australia to score a 1-0 win over Vietnam.

He drove himself to brink of exhaustion and was walking around in a daze on the following day until he was given a whisky and put to bed.

The other player who filled a linking mid-field role and has returned to Australia with a new maturity was Allan Westwater.

Attila Abonyi completed the tour with a bag of 13 goals and the reputation of being a beautifully fluent player who was a most penetrative striker.

He has a powerful shot in either foot, in spite of his slight build, and is going to be a key player in Australia's bid to qualify for the final 16 of the World Cup in 1970.

So is the other inside-forward, Ray Baartz.

He has a ferocious shot with his left foot, which was never seen to better effect than when he scored the goal in extra time which enabled Australia to beat Malaysia 1-0 in a semi-final of the Vietnam tournament.

Baartz threw himself heart and soul into every game and has developed a remarkable maturity for a young man who has just turned 21.

Undoubtedly, the most exciting individual display of the tour was that of Billy Vojtek, on the left-wing, in the final against South Korea.

He turned his rival full-back almost inside-out with his acceleration and splendid dribbling, as well as scoring Australia's opening goal.

The iron man of the tour was the left-back, Stan Ackerley, who was the only player to take part in all 10 matches, and forced a number of his lighter Asian rivals to take cover with his vigour in the tackle.

But it would be wrong to regard this happy-go-lucky defender as just a hatchet man, because he reads a game well and his use of the ball can be marvellously cool and adroit.

Manfred Schaefer developed as a key player in Australia's superbly co-ordinated defence, and Dick Van Alphen played with a superb aplomb at centre-half.

Another player who returned home with a new stature was Tom McColl, who showed a flair for the big occasion on Australia's right-wing.

It was a thrilling experience to share the triumph of this long-awaited breakthrough by an Australian Soccer team.

I can only hope, along with everybody else, that the Australian players will be able to regain their magic touch in today's match against Japan.

AUSTRALIA

(Gold shirts, dark green shorts, gold socks)

1. Ron Corry

2. George Keith **3. Stan Ackerley**

4. Manfred Schaefer **5. Dick Van Alphen** **7. Les Scheinflug**

10. Tom McColl **11. Ray Baartz**

15. Archie Blue **9. John Warren** **12. Billy Vojtek**

Reserves: Ross Kelly 14, Ray Lloyd 13, Archie Blue 15, Allan Marnoch 6, Roy Blitz 16. Allan Westwater 8.

Referee: VINCE DOBINSON (Qld.)

Corry

McColl

Schaefer

Baartz

Westwater

JAPAN

(White shirts, dark blue shorts, white socks)

1. Kenzo Yokoyama

2. Hiroshi Katayama
3. Yoshitada Yamaguchi

4. Ryozo Suzuki
5. Mitsuo Kamata
6. Masashi Watanabe

8. Shigeo Yaegashi
10. Aritatsu Ogi

7. Teruki Miyamoto
9. Kunishige Kamamoto
11. Ryuichi Sugiyama

Reserves: Kehji Funamoto, Masakatsu Miyamoto, Hisao Kami, Junji Kawano, Takaji Mori, Kiyoshi Tomisawa, Yasuyuki Kuwahara, Ikuo Matsumoto, Takeo Kimura.

Linesmen: H. PARSONS (N.S.W.), A. BOSKOVIC (N.S.W.),

Kimura

Kuwahara

Kawano

Matsumoto

Sugiyama

PEN PORTRAITS OF JAPANESE TEAM

KENZO YOKOYAMA, goal-keeper. Makes up for a lack of height with his agility and anticipation. A member of Japan's National team since 1963 and played in all four matches in the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. Has a good name in Peru and Brazil because of his brilliant form against Peru's National team and Palmeiras of Sao Paulo.

KEHJI FUNAMOTO, goal-keeper. Has a strong body and plenty of courage. A member of the Toyo-Kogyo team, which has been the champion of Japan for the last three years, and won the Emperor's Cup in 1967.

MASAKATSU MIYAMOTO, full-back. A member of Japan's National team since 1960. Has a reputation for liking to figure in an attacking raid up the wing. Japan's official list of pen pictures describes him as "an offensive full-back who has strong muscles."

HIROSHI KATAYAMA, full-back. Has just been chosen as a member of Asia's All-Star team for 1968. A very skilful ball player who is also strong in the air. A member of Japan's National team since 1960, and played in the four Olympic matches in Tokyo in 1964.

YOSHITADA YAMAGUCHI, full-back. Very small but quick in his reactions. Another who figured in the four Olympic winning a place in Japan's matches in Tokyo after National team in 1964.

HISAO KAMI, stopper. A tall player who makes up for what he lacks in speed with good anticipation. Made his first appearance for Japan in the Tokyo Olympics.

MITSUO KAMATA, stopper. Has been a key player in Japan's National team for the last nine years. Played in all four matches at the Tokyo Olympics.

JUNJI KAWANO. stopper. Is making his first appearance with Japan's National team. A young and hopeful player who is strong in the air and goes into the tackle with plenty of vigour.

TAKAJI MORI, link-man. A very clever player who is a constant threat, both in the mid-field and near the opposing goal. Another member of Japan's Olympic team in 1964.

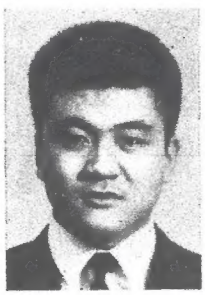
ARITATSU OGI, link-man. Japan's Footballer of the Year for 1965 and a member of the Asian All Star team of 1968. Has the ability to create an opening as he lies deep to pick up the ball in mid-field. First appeared in the National team in 1963 and figured in all four games in the Olympics in Tokyo in the following year.

KIYOSHI TOMISAWA, link-man. A steady player who is invariably used in a deep-lying role to aid the defence. A member of Japan's National squad since 1963.

SHIGEO YAEGASHI, link-man. Captain of Japan's National team since 1964 and the oldest member of the squad at the age of 35. A clever and experienced player in mid-field who took part in the Melbourne Olympics in 1956. Was captain of Japan in the four Olympic matches in 1964.

TERUKI MIYAMOTO, link-man. Has been a regular member of Japan's National team since 1960, and played in the four Olympic games in Tokyo in 1964. A capable player who has a good technique.

Yokoyama



Funamoto

M. Miyamoto

Katayama

Yamaguchi

Kami

Kamata

Suzuki

Kamamoto

Mori

MASASHI WATANABE, winger. A veteran who has played in Japan's National team since as far back as 1958. Is reputed to be a sharp shooter with a good turn of speed.

KUNISHIGE KAMAMOTO, centre-forward. Japan's Footballer of the Year for 1966, who is said to have attracted the attention of a number of clubs in Europe and South America. Tall, but very quick, and a dangerous goal scorer. A member of the Asian All-Star team of 1968. According to Dettmar Cramer, he could hold a place in any first division club in Europe. Has been studying at a Sports University in Germany under a scholarship awarded by the West German F.A.

YASUYUKI KUWAHARA, centre-forward. A tricky player who won a place in Asia's All-Star team for 1966 after coming into Japan's National side in the previous year. Has a strong shot for goal.

RYUICHI SUGIYAMA, winger. Very quick and a brilliant ball player. Palmeiras of Sao Paulo is still reported to be anxious to acquire this Asian All-Star player following his sparkling display against the Brazilian club in . A member of Japan's National team since 1961 who figured in all four matches at the Tokyo Olympics. Can sell a dummy as slyly as a pickpocket in Tokyo can steal your watch.

IKUO MATSUMOTO, winger. Has a knack of being able to control the ball while moving at top speed. A member of Japan's National team since 1963.

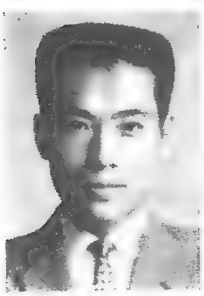
TAKEO KIMURA, winger. A young player who has been picked with an eye to the future. Quick to the ball and has a powerful shot. The "baby" of Japan's touring party at the age of 20.

KEN NAGANUMA, team manager. Has been manager of Japan's National team since 1963. In 1962 went to West Germany to study the latest trends in coaching under the instruction of Dettmar Cramer. A former member of Japan's National team who took part in the Olympic tournament in Melbourne in 1956. Played for Japan on many occasions and had a reputation as a poacher of goals.

SHUN-ICHIRO OKANO, coach. A former international player who has been coach of Japan's National team since 1963. Went to West Germany in 1961 for extensive instruction in coaching by Dettmar Cramer.

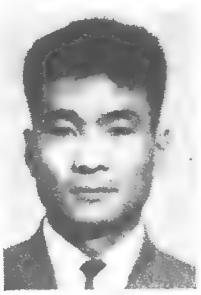
SHIZUO FUJITA, team leader. A Council member of the Japan Football Association and President of the Kyoto Football Association.

RYOZO SUZUKI, stopper. Quick running and strong in heading. Made his first appearance for Japan in 1962 and played in the four Olympic matches in 1964.



Tomisawa

Ogi



Yaegashi

T. Miyamoto

Watanabe

Australia's Squad Members

John Warren

RON CORRY (N.S.W.), goalkeeper. Age 26. Won a rating as Australia's No. 1 choice for the position with his acrobatic form on last November's tour of Asia. Won a trip to Europe for being Sydney's Player of the Year in 1963. Plays for South Sydney Croatia.

GEORGE KEITH (Victoria), right-back. Age 23. A cool, poised former Scot who came here in 1964 after having experience with Arsenal in England and Morton and Third Lanark in Scotland. A key member of Australia's team which won the Vietnam tournament. Plays for Hakoah in Melbourne.

STAN ACKERLEY (N.S.W.), left-back. Age 24. Born in Manchester, England. A fair-haired player who figured in all 10 matches on last November's tour of Asia. One of Australia's top players in the World Cup matches against North Korea in 1965. Plays for the Apia club in Sydney.

MANFRED SCHAEFER (N.S.W.), right-half. Age 24. Proved an outstanding success in a defensive role on last November's tour of Asia. Blonde and solidly built, he was born in Germany but came to Australia at the age of 10. Plays for St. George Budapest in Sydney.

DICK VAN ALPHEN (Victoria), centre-half. Age 30. A former first division player in Holland. A very experienced player who played with aplomb as Australia's "stopper" on the tour of Asia. Plays for Hakoah in Melbourne.

ALLAN WESTWATER (N.S.W.), left-half. Age 22. A young man of precocious talent who migrated from Scotland as a boy and returned there in 1963 for two years as a professional with Stirling Albion. Played for Australia in all three matches against Scotland before touring Asia.

TOM McCOLL (Victoria), right-winger. Age 22. A young Scot who had a spell with Chelsea before emigrating three years ago. His eye for an opening made him one of Australia's top players in the Vietnam tournament. Recently switched from South Australia to join Juventus of Melbourne.

LES SCHEINFLUG (N.S.W.), link man. Age 29. Making his first appearance in top representative football since captaining Australia in the World Cup qualifying matches against North Korea in 1965. Born in Germany. Has been playing with courage and energy.

JOHN WARREN (N.S.W.), centre-forward. Age 24. Became captain of Australia's team for the first time on the triumphant tour of Asia. Has played for Australia on 16 occasions. His courageous play has won him the loyalty of the other players. Plays for St. George Budapest.

RAY BAARTZ (N.S.W.), inside-left. Age 21. Born in Newcastle, N.S.W. A resourceful player who has a ferocious shot in his left foot. Scored Australia's only goal against Scotland and was a key player on the tour of Asia. Had two years as a professional with Manchester United before joining Hakoah in Sydney.

BILLY VOJTEK (Victoria), left-winger. Age 23. A beautiful mover who was the star of Australia's 3-2 win over South Korea in the final of the Vietnam tournament. Was born in Yugoslavia but came here as a schoolboy. Plays for Croatia in Melbourne.

ROY BLITZ (N.S.W.), winger. Age 25. Born in England. Can be a match winner when he is in the mood. Played for Australia against Chelsea and toured Asia with the World Cup team of 1965. Plays for Pan-Hellenic in Sydney.

ALLAN MARNOCH (N.S.W.), centre-half. Age 23. A tall, powerfully built Scot who acted with authority as Australia's "stopper" in all three matches against Scotland last year. Was unavailable for subsequent tour of South-East Asia. Plays for Hakoah in Sydney.

ARCHIE BLUE (N.S.W.), mid-field player. Age 27. Born in Scotland. Has an astonishing lung capacity which enables him seemingly never to stop running. Played for Australia against North Korea in the World Cup in 1965, as well as Scotland last year. Has represented both Victoria and N.S.W. Plays for Apia in Sydney.

ROSS KELLY (Queensland), goalkeeper. Age 21. An elegant and effective young Australian player who has yet to reach full maturity—but his potential is very much appreciated. Went to New Caledonia last November with Australia's Under 23 team. Plays for Azzuri club in Brisbane.

ENCOURAGE YOUR YOUNGSTERS—CRAMER

IF you take care of your youngsters, you will have a big future in international soccer," said Dettmar Cramer as he held his audience under a spell like some authoritarian witch doctor.

"I was coaching a group of 40 boys under 16 the other night in Sydney, and found them to have talent equal to that of a squad of 40 the same age in any country in Europe," he continued.

"All your youngsters need is the example of a great national team and good coaching."

Cramer, a small man with big capabilities, won fame as the coach of West Germany's national team before starting to wander the world as a coach on behalf of FIFA.

"I'm not a society lawyer, and I don't say things I don't mean," he said. "That is why I made a reference to stone age soccer when I saw a bad match between New South Wales and Victoria in Melbourne.

"You must adopt an instant program of concentrating all your efforts to build up a great national team," said the dedicated German coach.

"From what I have seen in Australia so far, you are good enough to beat Japan in the qualifying round of the World Cup if your team is well prepared," said Cramer. "Who beats Japan is also able to beat North Korea . . . and who beats North Korea is able to go to Mexico in 1970 for the final 16 of the World Cup.

"Never has there been such a chance for soccer in Australia, and every State and club should co-operate with the Australian Soccer Federation in building a great national team."

Cramer last year was sought as the strong man who was needed as boss of Austria's ailing national team, but he decided to extend his contract with FIFA until June, 1969.

Cramer will then probably return to West Germany to help prepare his country's team for the World Cup finals as he did in 1966.

An inside-forward in his playing days, Cramer never represented Germany but was good enough to become first division player in his native Dortmund.

"I had skill and the gift of quickness, and even today my skill with the ball is better than any of the players I coach," he said.

Cramer has found that he now disagrees with nearly everything he was taught by his former coaches.

"The old idea was if you had a young player who was a good dribbler, then you concentrate on teaching him something else, like how to pass a ball," he said. "Now if I find a boy who is a good dribbler, then I first make him into a master dribbler, because that is his talent."

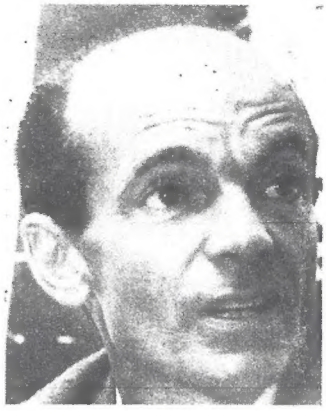
I questioned Cramer as to the best player he has ever seen, and he gave a tug at his red FIFA tie.

"There is no doubt . . . Alfredo Di Stefano. He is a player who was 20 years ahead of his time. He was better than Eusebio, better than Pele and better than Puskas," he said.

"Di Stefano did all of the necessary jobs. If the team needed a defender, he would marshal the defence in the penalty area. He could be the play-maker in midfield, and as well as this he was the top goal scorer of Real Madrid.

"This will still be the modern style of play when the World Cup is played in 1974.

"Pele is not a game-maker, but is a match winner, and he



Dettmar Cramer

is greater than Eusebio because he is quick like a cat.

"Didi and Pele linked together in Brazil's national team to form the best pair I have ever seen. Pele played the second violin and scored the goals as his friend Didi acted as the game-maker in midfield. Didi had slow feet, but he had a remarkable ball control and a quick brain.

"Bobby Charlton is a second Di Stefano and I frankly don't know what England is going to do when he stops.

"There is a tendency to ignore the great players of eastern Europe because they get less publicity and are seen less on TV, but I would sooner have Florian Albert, of Hungary, in my team than Eusebio.

"Albert is a great individual player as well as being a team player."

Let's hope that it will not be long before he is back to pay us another visit because Australia needs a man such as Cramer to occasionally stir our conscience.

—**TERRY SMITH**

UNCLE JOE HAS A PLAN

AUSTRALIAN coach Joe Vlasits is no fool, and he is taking every step to retain the fighting spirit which was built up among the Australian players on the tour of South-East Asia.

"We had a beautiful friendship on the tour, and it must not be allowed to fade because this is the factor which could get us to Mexico for the final 16 of the World Cup in 1970," he said.

Vlasits already is arranging a monthly dinner between the various players from Sydney who made the trip, and a special tie is being made for each member of the touring party.

"Whatever we do, we must keep this squad together," said Uncle Joe.

So it can be seen that the framework of Australia's team for the World Cup qualifying round against Japan, South Korea and Rhodesia is going to come from the side which won last November's Vietnam tournament.

However, any player would be foolish to become complacent because Vlasits is keeping a constant eye on the progress of a number of rising young players in Australia's Under 23 team.

Already John Perin, of South Australia, who has a marvellous ball control and fine balance, and Ross Kelly, a goalkeeper from Queensland, have been brought into Australia's squad of 16 players for today's match.

This pair was playing in New Caledonia with Australia's Under 23 side at the time when the National team captured the imagination of the Australian sporting public by winning the tournament in Saigon.

Vlasits has evolved a modern system of play in which he takes advantage of the individual talent of the various Australian players.

For example, Attila Abonyi has a great clairvoyance and the ability to drift gently into a dangerous position, so it would hardly be practical to use him in a deep lying role at inside-right.

John Warren and Allan Westwater have an enormous capacity for work, so they are used to fill a linking role in the midfield to create the chances for Abonyi and Ray Baartz, who are infinitely matured as a result of the tour of Asia.

Baartz is another player of incredible energy, and can be relied upon to throw himself heart and soul into every game.

Every player is expected to do his share of the work in this new-look Australian team, and the wing pair of Billy Vojtek and Tom McColl are not doing their job if they do not drop back to pick up the ball.

Manfred Schaefer is such a ferocious tackler and lacks fear to such an extent that he is a natural choice to be Australia's second stopper.

He has become so effective in such a role that Australia's full-back pair of George Keith and Stan Ackerley are never afraid to venture up the field in an attacking raid.

Joe Vlasits

There is no worry about the centre-half spot where Dick Van Alphen, of Victoria, and Allan Marnoch, of N.S.W., are figuring in a two-way struggle.

The Australian Soccer Federation stuck to a winning formula in re-appointing the Asian tour trio of John Barclay as manager, Dr. Brian Corrigan as the medical officer, and Lou Lazzari as the physiotherapist.

The players respect Mr. Barclay because they know from experience that he will fight all the way on their behalf if anything is wrong.

Dr. Corrigan is without peer in Australia when it comes to combining a cheerful spirit with a knowledge of Sports Medicine, while Lazzari is a kindly soul who has healing power in his hands.

Australia's players and officials have developed a new pride in the team's performance, and they are hoping to show you in today's match that reports of their brilliant play in South-East Asia were not without justification.

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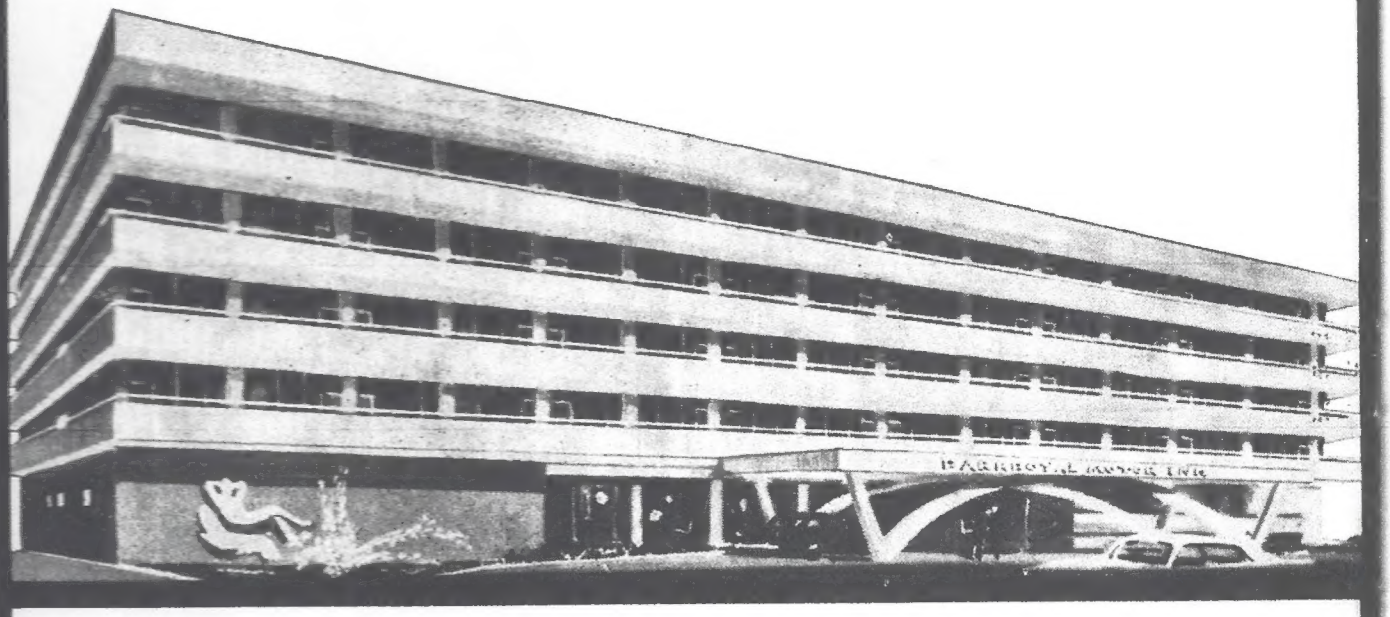

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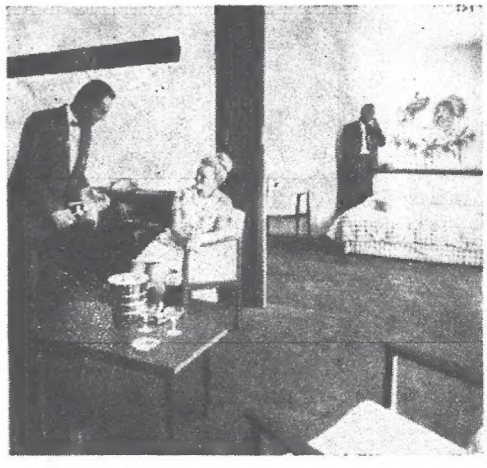
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